News-item Captioned as "Soochana Kranti Ka Kamaal"

†3802. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in "Rashtriya Sahara" dated the 12th February, 2002 under the caption "Soochana Kranti Ka Kamaal—Internet par lagi deh ki haat"; and

(b) the concrete steps being contemplated by Government to check such incidents of vulgarity on Internet?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 has a provision to make carriage of obscene contents through networks a punishable offence. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are required to ensure as per license agreement that their networks do not carry obscene materials. They are making efforts to block obscene sites to the extent possible. There has been considerable awareness grown in the country about the harmful effect of such misuse of internet. National Informatics Centre (NIC) has already hosted a web site (netsafety.nic.in) for the benefit of public in this regard.

Check on wasteful expenditure

†3803. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken any measures to check wasteful expenditure and has identified such areas in its various Departments where wasteful expenditure is maximum;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.